

SEAS NEWS

February, 2012

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church
2200 West Republic Road
Springfield, MO 65807
417. 887. 6472
www.seaschurch.org

Established 1981

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, a Roman Catholic Christian community, strives to be a dynamic, welcoming center of faith, where life-long friendships begin and grow.

Our mission is:

- *To provide opportunity for worship, ministry and proclaiming the Gospel.*
- *To provide education and support for the spiritual growth of every parish member.*
- *To build a local community of faith that fosters life, justice and peace in the global society.*

FEBRUARY DATES

**Feb. 2...Presentation of the Lord;
Candlemas Day**

Feb. 3...Feast of St. Blaise-Blessing of Throats

Feb. 11...Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes

Feb. 20...Presidents' Day

Feb. 22...Ash Wednesday

From the Pastor...

Dear Parishioners,

As we look ahead to the month of February, I would like to thank each of you for the cooperative way in which you have received the new translation of the Mass. I am very grateful for your full participation.

One of the primary features of the month of February is the celebration of Valentine's Day. This is a perfect opportunity for us as a parish community to thank God for the gift of the Sacrament of Marriage and to continue to ask God for all the graces necessary to enhance the quality of life of all of those who are married.

On Thursday, February 2, we celebrate the Presentation of the Lord (Candlemas Day). This day celebrates the time when Mary and Joseph, as faithful Jewish servants, present the child Jesus to Simeon in the Temple. The Gospel uses this event to demonstrate how totally dedicated this Holy Family was to God. It presents a picture of how we are called to dedicate our own lives in the same way. On this day, we will bless the candles that will be used in church and in homes during this year. Mass will be celebrated at 6:30 and 8:30 AM.

On Friday, February 3, we celebrate the Feast of St. Blaise by offering the tradition of blessing of throats during Mass. This represents the Church's efforts to assist us in the healing of bodily illness. Masses will be celebrated at 6:30 and 8:30 AM and 6:00 PM.

On Wednesday, February 22, we begin the Holy Season of Lent. Lent affords us the opportunity to love the Lord more fully each day. It is a time to open ourselves to God in a more intimate way, so that God's will becomes more clear in our trials, joys and responsibilities.

Lent is also a time of increased prayer, self-denial and service. Through participation in our various parish Lenten activities, we can attend to all three of these. Whatever we do this Lent, let us make sure we are doing it joyfully. Joy is the assurance that our Lenten activities are being done for the right reason – getting to know and love God better. May your Lenten joy be full.

Ash Wednesday, February 22, Masses will be held at
6:30, 8:30 AM and 4:30, 6:30 PM
Ashes will be distributed at all Masses

During this season of Lent, our parish will be offering the following opportunities for you and your family to renew and strengthen your relationships with the Lord in preparation for the season of Easter.

(see page 2)

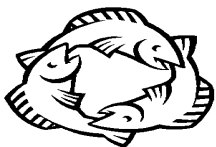
+ + + LENT...2012 + + +

- +Attend daily Mass or at least one extra Mass a week: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday at 6:30 AM & 8:30 AM; Wednesday at 6:30 AM and 6:00 PM.
- +Attend the Parish Communal Penance Service– Monday, March 26, 2012 at 7:00 PM.
- +Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament takes place Mondays from 4:00 PM until 8:00 PM. During Lent, there will be additional opportunities for adoration on Fridays following the 8:30 AM Mass until 7:00 PM. Please consider signing up to pray before the Blessed Sacrament for an hour or half-hour during Lent.
- +Stations of the Cross & Benediction will be held on Fridays during Lent at 3:00 PM and 7:00 PM in the church.
- +Participate in a faith sharing group. The 6-week sessions - *Lenten Longings* - will explore the Sunday Lenten readings. Groups meet at the parish and in parishioners' homes. The 60-90 minute sessions are a wonderful opportunity to grow in faith and spirituality. Sign-up weekends are February 4/5 and 11/12.
- +Ash Wednesday Soup Supper - 4:30—6:30 PM.
- +Participate in the Thursday Evening Bible Study group. The group meets every other Thursday from 6:30 -8:00 PM. in the Office Conference Room. March dates are the 1st, 15th and 29th. Call Joe Brozovich at 882-3992 for more information.
- +Participate in Operation Rice Bowl. Families are encouraged to have simple meals once or twice a week during Lent, giving the money saved to the Rice Bowl collection. Return your Rice Bowl, which will be sent to you under separate cover, with your sacrificial offerings on Good Friday.
- +The Lenten Calendar, also being sent under separate cover, provides useful suggestions to help your family keep the season before you daily.
- +Take time for prayer. Use *The Word Among Us* as an aid in reflecting daily on the scriptures of the Lenten season.

My hope for each of you is that this season of Lent will be a very special time of prayer, of deepening of spiritual lives, and of enriching our spirit of generosity for those who are suffering significantly in these very difficult economic times.

Again, I would like to thank all of you who have lovingly donated a pledge to our “Moving forward in Faith and Community” Capital Campaign. Your gifts are offerings to the entire community of our parish, for which we are all grateful. For those of you who have yet to make a pledge, I strongly urge you to do so if it is at all possible.

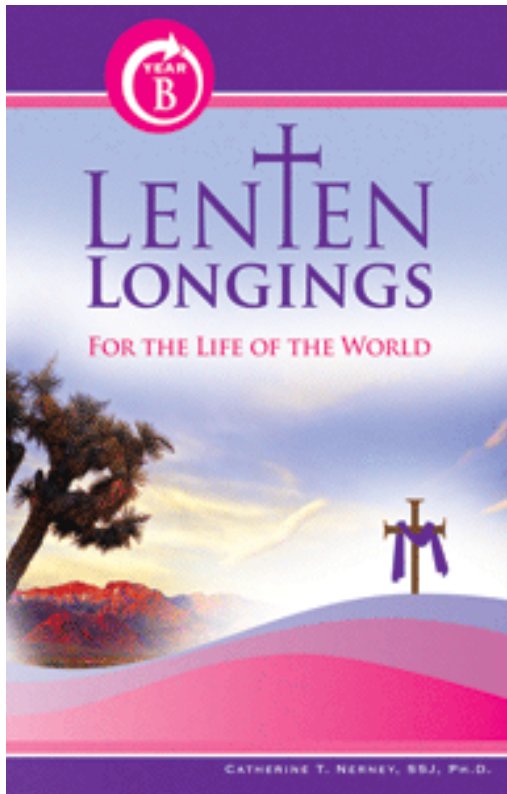
During this month of February, I would like to ask each of you to pray especially for those members of our parish who are out of work and for those who serve in our Military. May God bless each of you.



FAST AND ABSTINENCE

*Ash Wednesday, February 22 and Good Friday, April 6
are days of fasting and abstinence from meat.*

All Catholics between the ages of 18 and 59, inclusive, are limited to one full meal on this day and two smaller meals which, together, do not equal one full meal. All who have attained their 14th year are bound to abstain from meat.



LENT invites us to a time of prayer, reflection and conversion...

Choose to participate in small faith groups that will gather to explore the LENTEN SUNDAY READINGS

***Sessions begin
Feb. 26 for 6 weeks***

Participants' Booklet provides reflection and questions for each session...

- Session 1: Remembering, Reforming, Repenting
- Session 2: Recognizing the Gift; Trusting the Giver
- Session 3: The Freedom to Be Foolish
- Session 4: Becoming the Message
- Session 5: Learning to Love Like God
- Session 6: The point of Such Extravagance

SIGN-UP WEEKENDS: February 4/5 & 11/12



Join us on

ASH WEDNESDAY

February 22

4:30 PM—7:00 PM

FREE LIGHT DINNER:

**THREE DIFFERENT KINDS OF SOUP,
SALAD OR TOASTED CHEESE SANDWICH**

COME FOR DINNER IF YOU ATTEND THE MORNING MASS OR COME BEFORE THE 6:30 PM MASS. ENJOY GOOD FOOD AND GREAT COMPANY.

SPONSORED BY SEAS HOME & SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

ORGANIZATIONS AND ACTIVITIES...



St. Bernadette Guild

Our focus is spiritual development and projects to support the church community. New members are always welcome to our meetings on the 2nd Thursday of each month at 1:00 PM. Call Jeanne Spruill at 881-1375 for more information.



St. Eligius Guild

Are you a mom who wants to provide service to our Church, Children Community? Come join the St. Eligius Guild. Meetings are on the second Monday of each month in the Seas Café. New moms are always welcome. Any questions, please call Leslie Norman at 823-4949.



SEAS MOM'S GROUP

We provide a social outlet for the young children of our parish and their mothers. A monthly calendar with activities is posted outside the gym. These activities include gym time, lunch at Incredible Pizza, story hour and many others... Call Tracie Ahrens at 823-9630 for more information.

MEN'S CLUB

“Good men doing good things.” We meet on the 3rd Thursday of the month at 7:00 PM to pray the Rosary and have dinner and socializing. We also gather on the 1st Saturday at 7:00 AM for Mass and breakfast. We support the parish with fundraisers and are involved in most parish functions. Contact Mike Tettamble at 831-0618.

St. Francis Guild

This guild is involved in many parish and community activities. We also provide fellowship through many social activities. Meetings are the third Monday of the month at 6:30 in the dining room. New members are always welcome. For Information call Connie Meyer, 773-3310.



St. Jude Guild

St. Jude members will meet **Wednesday, February 8 in Seas Café at 1:00 PM.** Mary Detten will provide our spiritual reading. Josie Raborar will share with us: Lenten Customs from the Philippines. Members will continue to support SVDP and our troops in Afghanistan. All women of the parish are welcome to join us. If you have questions call: Shirley, 881-4632 or Tina, 881-2356.

HELP WANTED FOR HARVEST HOME

Harvest Home planning is just around the corner and we need your help. We are in need of co-chairs or a chairperson to head up Harvest Home this year. We have many veterans returning as committee heads, but we need someone in the leadership role this year. If you are interested in serving as a chair person or a committee member, please contact Cindy Dittmer at 880-5675 or e-mail: bcdittmer@yahoo.com. You could also contact Fr. Tom at 887-6472.

It is imperative that we get this position filled as soon as possible so we can proceed with plans for the festival. Please consider your talents and volunteer to help.

ORGANIZATIONS AND ACTIVITIES...



SEAS Mardi Gras Ice Cream Social

Sunday, February 12th

1:00 - 2:30 PM

SEAS Gym & Café

Cake * Ice Cream * Games * Crafts



Family Fun for Everyone!

ST. VINCENT de PAUL SOCIETY

THANK YOU to all the SEAS parishioners who so very generously supported SVDP with your donations during 2011. During 2011, SVDP was able to assist 1070 families, 180 of which were through Crosslines. This ministry would not be possible without your support!

Following is the SVDP 2011 report.

DONATIONS **\$43,080.63**
(plus mountains of food!)

EXPENSES

Utility Aid	\$ 4,751.84
SEAS Pantry Food Aid	27,280.55
Crosslines Food Aid	2,911.09
Joplin Relief	3,216.00
Misc. Aid	
(Rent, Repairs, Funerals)	1,794.16
Prison Ministry	125.00
Twining (to India)	400.00
SVDP Council Dues and Insurance	425.00
Miscellaneous	15.00

TOTAL EXPENSES **\$40,918.64**

TOTAL FAMILY ASSISTANCE

Food Aid	1038 families with 2922 persons
Utility Aid	28 families
Misc. Aid	4 families

TOTAL **1070 FAMILIES**

As you know, we started a pilot program in January to request five food items from parishioners each month in order to continue to meet the needs in helping those who are out of work or in dire situations. Your response is truly appreciated. THANKS to all who brought items in January. Surely God will bless you for helping those in need in our community.

It is time to let you know which items are being requested in **February**. We are asking parishioners to bring one (or more) of the Five items of the Month listed below:

**Toothpaste Toilet Paper Peanut Butter
Hamburger Helper (type) Meal Kits
Canned Spaghetti/Meatballs.**

We're hoping you will drop some of these items in to your shopping cart and bring them to SEAS to place in the bins in the Gathering Area.



Parish School of Religion

FEBRUARY DATES

Feb. 26-or

Feb. 29

Confirmation 1:
Sponsor/Candidate meeting

Feb. 1 or Feb 5
1st Communion
Parent Meeting

Feb. 19th-
No PSR on Sunday
President's Week-end!

Feb. 22
No PSR
Ash Wednesday

Feb. 18-19
P-3 Weekend for
7th and 8th grade
girls .

"Life is a just employer. We get out of life just what we ask for. If you don't like what you're getting, you have to check what you're giving."

We will soon be approaching Lent; this is a great time to reevaluate our lives and figure out what is really important in our lives. This year Lent begins on February 22. Lent is a time for self-sacrifice, repentance and conversion of heart. We need to ask ourselves what needs to be changed in the lives of our family members. Do we need to spend more time together? Do we need to pray more? Are there good intentions to be acted on or sacrifices to make? On Ash Wednesday we receive ashes at Mass. Marking a person's forehead is an ancient symbol of ownership. Receiving ashes in the shape of a cross identifies you as a disciple of Jesus Christ; this also reminds us of human mortality and the need of repentance. Make this a special Lent for your family.

The day before Ash Wednesday is a day of celebration throughout the Catholic world; known as Mardi Gras or Fat Tuesday. Whatever you want to call it, this is a great time for families to have fun together. You may want to wear a costume, go for a walk, eat pancakes, make a mask, bake a King Cake, create a parade, use the colors green, gold and purple. St. Eligius guild at SEAS will be hosting a Mardi Gras party for families on Sunday, February 12th at 1:00 in the gymnasium. There will be ice cream, cake, crafts and games.

We had 56 students and 6 adults confirmed on January 28th. It was a beautiful celebration with Bishop Johnston. Our students in grades 3rd through 8th grade experienced a Living Rosary in the month of January.

Camp Re-New-All forms are on the PSR bulletin board by the gym and online at the Springfield-Cape Girardeau Diocesan website. This is a summer Catholic Camp offered to students going into 5th – 9th grade. Older students and adults are also needed to work the camp. The sessions fill up quickly so register soon if you would like your child to attend. There are 5 weeks to choose from on this side of the diocese.



Sunday PSR 4th Grade
Melissa Tolleson, Catechist

4th Grade Advent Project

The focus of this family project was the Parable of the Talents (Matt. 25:14-30.) Each family was entrusted with 10 Talents (ten \$1 golden coins.) After reading and discussing the parable as a family, they had to decide together how they would use their time and talent wisely to increase this gift.

On Dec. 18, the class had a family gathering. Each child made a 3-5 min. presentation on how their family increased this gift and what they learned. These 20 families were very creative. The talents were increased by making and selling of bracelets, baked goods, a gift of time coupons. One family picked walnuts from their trees, bagged and sold them, etc. Children's responses included: "We learned how to take a talent or skill and turn it in a way to help others." "I learned that hard work pays off." "Giving of our time requires a sacrifice on our part." "When God gives talents, we need to use them." "I learned that making a difference feels good." "Don't be selfish with what you have, but use it to give to others."



SEAS SCHOOL NEWS

Thank you Father Reidy for sharing Mass with the school on our Feast Day January 4th. It was a great time for all to share in the love and joy that St Elizabeth Ann Seton found in establishing the early Catholic Schools in America.

January has come and gone with a lot of activity. Students finalized their entries in the Diocesan Voice For Life contest. Home and school hosted a very successful Bunco night and we hosted a great seminar on Bully Prevention: What it is and What it is not! Mrs. Judy Brunner long time area educator, former principal and current professor at MSU co-owns EduSafe which gives seminars and travels the country sharing topics that relate to school safety.

The end of January and the first week of February kick off National Catholic Schools week. This year the title is "Catholic Schools: Faith, Academics and Service" and certainly reflects the heart of our mission as a Catholic school. A variety of activities will be hosted for the students and staff throughout the week.

There will be a public open house on Thursday February 2nd from 5:30-6:30. If you have ever thought you might want to send your child/children to Catholic School but were not sure what we offer or how to afford it, please consider coming by during our open house. Daily tours are available with appointment. Come home to Catholic Schools where all children are valued and encouraged to live and share their faith daily with others. Call Cheryl Hall, Principal or Lisa Ellis, Administrative Assistant at 417-887-6056 or email chall@scspk12.org for more information.

February will also find our Home and School sponsoring the Lenten Soup Supper on February 22nd. Laura Dannegger is the chair if you are interested in helping prepare or serve this parish supper.

Just as our students reflected on the impact of Martin Luther King, we too should all have a dream, a dream where our parish continues to thrive and grow toward a greater fulfillment in Christ. And then reality where all people intensify their personal relationship with our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and then go out and share it with the world.

Yours,
Cheryl L Hall,
Principal



WE WELCOME NEW MEMBERS . . .



Matthew & Miste Maschino & family
Paul & Nydie Riggs & family
Kevin & Brenda Luttrell & family
Brad & Veronica McGehee & family
Ravi & Kathy Singh & family
Bob & Dawnielle Baker & family
John & Tori Williams & family
Corey & Maggie Riggs & family
Jeff & Kristen McDaniel & family
Clint Anderson & Jenna Pomeroy & family

Pam Hansen
Frank Williams
Myles McEwen
Sarah Anderson & family
Thomas & Carol Lenhoff
Nathaniel & Haley Gillespie
Sara Mead & family
Jessica Doeden & family
Jeff & Karen Ellis & family
Cary & Jessica Gudde & family

*Please introduce yourselves and let us get to know you.
We're glad you're here!*



Charlotte Claire
daughter of John & Lisa
Skiffington

Hudson Alexander
son of
Christopher & Misty Gray

WE OFFER CONDOLENCES...



Our hearts go out to

Glen Eckl
at the death of his mother
Charlotte Finer

The family and friends of
Vivian LaRocque
long ago housekeeper at SEAS Rectory

The family and friends
of parishoner
Margaret Newton

Joe Winterburg
at the death of his sister
Shirley Dougherty



PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES

January 17, 2012

Attendance: Present: Father Reidy, Linda Green-Chair, Dan Hoy-Vice Chair, Carol Bormann-Secretary, Laura Dannegger, Stephanie Skornia, Vinny Salerno, Debbie Randell, Mark Jarek, Dan Lohkamp, Melinda Lohkamp, Steve Squibb. Excused Absence: Sharon Giboney, Joe Dills; Absent: Jeff Werner.

SEAS Prayer & Mission Statement: Meeting opened with the prayer and SEAS Mission Statement.

Living the Word: The question of the week found in SEAS weekly bulletin was reviewed and discussed.

Committee/Departmental Reports:

PSR-Parish School of Religion- Debbie Randell, Director of Religious Education.

Confirmation Reflection Day is January 22nd. We will meet for the 11:15 Mass, have a luncheon, Fr. Mark from CCM will be our speaker and follow with a short practice for the candidates and their sponsors. We have 56 candidates and 6 adults. Confirmation will be held Saturday at the 4:30 Mass on the 28th. For the past 7 years a living rosary has been held in the gym on the 15th and 18th for 3rd through 8th grade and it has improved greatly over the years. The 1st and 2nd grade classes will be learning about the Mass this month. A Mardi Gras party will be held on Feb. 12th at 1 to 2:30 with ice cream, cake, games and crafts for young families. The last safe environment classes, offered twice a year in each classroom, are Feb. 12th and 15th. P-3 (Purity, Passion & Pearls) invitations went out this weekend. This program, offered every other year, is for 7th and 8th grade girls in our parish. The girls learn about manners, hair, make-up, dressing appropriately, and how to make good decisions throughout their teenage years.

Youth Ministry-- Melinda Lohkamp, Youth Minister

CREED had a busy holiday season collecting items for Rare Breed Advent Service Project, caroling at 2 nursing homes and ringing the bell all day for the Salvation Army. Our group took 3 cars and 1 minivan completely full to the folks at Rare Breed. They were overwhelmed by the donations. Thank you St. Elizabeth Ann Seton for supporting our Youth Group's efforts to help other teens in need at Christmas time. **Upcoming Events and Conferences:** January 29 **Bowling**, February 4 (6:00) **Dodge Ball Tournament:** SEAS youth groups will be hosting our 3rd annual SEAS Youth Ministries Dodge Ball Tournament. We welcome teams of 10 (max) of Jr. High & High School Youth from the area schools & youth groups. A planning committee is being formed. February 24-25 **Lock-In** March 23-25 **Diocesan Youth Conference:** West Plains MO – Register now; Fee of \$65 due no later than Feb 26th. More info will be coming to me later in the month, so stay tuned, April 29 **Graduation Mass** with lunch to follow May 13th Mother's Day- "Bring your mom to CREED" night July 13-14 **Steubenville Catholic Conference:** Steubenville Catholic Conference will be held off the campus of MSU. \$190.00 due February 15th. This covers conference fee, food, housing and handling expenses. Space is limited. **ROC- Reaching Out for Christ-**7th & 8th Grade -Our group is still going strong with Wednesday night attendance about 15-20 each week. We are building great community and lasting friendships. ROC will be going bowling, Jan. 25th, at Battlefield Lanes. **KRUNCH - Kids R United 'N Christ's House-** 4th, 5th & 6th Grade-We always have a good group of kids and an awesome group of volunteers. Next month KRUNCH will meet February 12th due to the Super Bowl being on the first Sunday of the month. Upcoming KRUNCH dates: March 4th, 6pm in SEAS Gym April 1st- Field Trip –Location TBD; May 6th, 6pm in the SEAS Gym; June 3rd, 6pm in the SEAS Gym July NO KRUNCH August 5th- Pool Party

Music Ministry - Dan Lohkamp, Music Minister

All the choirs did a great job at Christmas! We are very blessed to have so many talented people in the parish who are willing to share their gifts! With Advent and Christmas behind us, our choirs are working on Lent and Easter. In the next two weeks our choirs are planning to introduce a new Gloria for Ordinary Time. The congregation will sing the shorter version until Easter when we will return to the longer version. Due to problems with the sanctuary organ, a local technician is working with manufacturer representatives to fix it. With one year remaining on the original warranty, the parts for repair are covered. The organ can be used, but we will be monitoring any problems. If the organ suddenly falters during a song, keep singing!

PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES, continued

Springfield Catholic School Board – Fr. Reidy & Laura Dannegger

Emerald Evening - The date for Emerald Evening, the main Springfield Catholic School's fundraiser, is March 24th. The Early Bird drawing for \$500 will be January 31. **Capital Campaign** - The Capital Campaign to remodel the high school is well under way. The improvements and additions to the Springfield Catholic High School are scheduled to be completed by the time the 8th grade students at SEAS graduate in 2015. The Council members watched a video being used to promote the campaign. **Grading System** – The Superintendent of Schools will be studying the grading system at SCHS.

Liturgy Committee – Fr. Reidy

The Liturgy Committee met January 16. The liturgy of the Christmas season was discussed and suggestions were offered for refinement. Planning is now under way for Lent and Easter. The new norms for the Mass were also discussed. Barbara Bumberry has been selected to train new lectors and readers. Linda Green will replace Marilyn Vydra, as coordinator of the 11:15 Mass. Marilyn has retired.

Building/Finance Committee - Dan Lohkamp

To date, the donations collected have managed to cover the cost of Phase 1 which has already been dedicated, but it is anticipated that a loan will be needed in the future. The materials have arrived for the gymnasium's roof, so work on that construction should commence soon. The contractors are still on target for a completion date of May 1 of this year. General fund donations for regular expenses and maintenance are still somewhat below budget levels.

Unfinished Business:

Hospitality Committee

Tom Giovanni, Chair of the committee, has been developing a plan to activate a Hospitality Committee or Welcoming Committee. He will meet with Father Reidy to discuss ways to move forward with the committee. He will give a report to Council at a later date.

Other:

Following a lengthy discussion about possible directions for the Council, additional agenda items were tabled until the next meeting.

Next Meeting: TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2012, 7PM. The meeting adjourned with a closing prayer.



CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF SOUTHERN MISSOURI

Do you want information about the impact Catholic Charities of Southern Missouri in our Diocese? Check out the new web site at: www.ccsomo.org. The site is still under construction, but new information is being added weekly like:

- “Back Home for the Holidays,” front page *Joplin Globe* article about home rebuilding which highlights one of the homes Catholic Charities and its partners built.
- Walmart awarded Catholic Charities of Southern Missouri a \$10,000 grant for its disaster response work in Southern Missouri under its “12 Days of Giving” Campaign.
- St. Francis Medical Center, Cape Girardeau, awards CCSM funds under its 2011 Power of Sharing Community Campaign.

From Sr. Pat...



It seems that Lent comes upon us very quickly. Ready or not, the liturgical year moves forward. Lent invites and challenges us to join with the Church to again prepare for the celebration of the paschal mystery of Jesus' death and resurrection and our salvation.

What is the first word that comes to mind when you think of "Lent"? Is it penance? Sacrifice? Stations of the Cross? Purple? No desserts? Fish? All of these are good answers. I would like to suggest the best word might be *baptism*. This is the richest symbol of what the church calls us to during Lent. Our Lent has its origins from the fourth and fifth century evolution of the "catechuminate." Lent was a forty day retreat for those adults preparing to be initiated at the Easter Vigil through Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist. Those who were baptized entered fully into their preparation as a way of renewing their own baptism. In later years, the focus of baptism shifted from adults to infants. The focus of Lent shifted from baptism preparation to penance and sacrifice. The Second Vatican Council called us back to the baptismal focus for Lent; we are invited into a forty day retreat before baptism.



Every year our Lenten journey begins in the desert. The gospel for the first Sunday of Lent is always the temptation of Jesus by the devil. We begin Lent in the dry, deserted place with Jesus, thirsting for God's grace and salvation, aware of the struggle with darkness and death. This setting and narrative recalls questions from the baptismal ritual: "Do you reject sin...do you reject the glamour of evil and refuse to be mastered by sin...do you reject Satan, father of sin and prince of darkness?"

The presence of catechumens (those to be initiated at the Easter Vigil) enriches this experience for the community as we celebrate the Lenten rituals with them. Usually, on the first Sunday of Lent, we celebrate a *Rite of Sending* in the parish. In this ritual, we send our catechumens to the Cathedral—the "mother church" to join with others from across the diocese in the *Rite of Election*. In the *Rite of Election*, the Bishop calls the catechumens to the Easter Sacraments. This year, however, the *Rite of*

Sending and Rite of Election will be celebrated in Springfield on the second Sunday of Lent. Bishop Johnston will be in Cape Girardeau at St. Mary's Church to preside at the rituals on the First Sunday of Lent.

This year, on the first Sunday of Lent, we will celebrate "The Penitential Rite" with those who have been baptized and are preparing for full communion with the Church at the Easter Vigil.

On the third, fourth and fifth Sundays of lent, our catechumens are again brought before the community for the "scrutinies." The ancient church used these rituals as solemn public intercessions made by the community on behalf of those preparing for baptism. The prayer was for the protection and deliverance of the "elect" from the demons and evils that surround them. As we celebrate the scrutinies in this Year B, we will proclaim the readings from Year A at the Mass with the catechumens. These three great "baptismal stories" from the gospel of John prepare us for the mystery of the fullness of God's love and salvation.

Catechumens will have reflected upon these readings. Let yourself be challenged by them. The third Sunday is the narrative of the Samaritan woman at the well to whom Jesus give "living water." How have you met Jesus? What idols in your life keep you from God? What is our society, our community, our world, thirsts for living water?

On the fourth Sunday when we witness the new sight of the man born blind, we can ask: What are my blind spots? Where in my life or in our world is there blurred vision? Do we really see things differently because of Jesus?

On the fifth Sunday, we see Lazarus come forth from the tomb. The gospel asks us: What additions and memories bind me and keep me from being truly free? What are some of the deaths that happen to me personally and as a community? What do I need from God to be full of life?

These three Sundays embody the symbols of baptism from the movement from living water through new vision into new life. "Let the rains come and the waters flow." Happy journey through the desert into the life-giving water of Easter.





OUR LADY OF LOURDES

Between February 11 and July 16, 1858, Mary the Mother of Jesus appeared 18 times to Bernadette Soubirous in a grotto at Massabielle, near Bernadette's home town of Lourdes, France.

Bernadette and her sisters were gathering firewood near the cave when Bernadette saw a light and a lady dressed in white, with a blue belt and golden yellow roses on her feet. Bernadette tried to keep this a secret, but her sister told her parents and they were punished. Three days later, Bernadette returned to the grotto with two other girls and holy water. The Lady inclined her head when the water was thrown. Bernadette entered into a state of ecstasy while her companions were fearful. The Lady asked Bernadette to return to the grotto over a period of two weeks. As word spread among the villagers, Bernadette was forbidden to return to the site. She disobeyed. On February 24, the Lady asked for prayer and penitence for the conversions of sinners. On the next day, Bernadette was instructed to dig in the ground and drink from the spring water. As word spread, the water was given to the sick and infirm. Numerous miracles were reported. Seven were confirmed by medical examiners as having no medical explanation. Several miracles proved to be short-term improvements or even hoaxes. The government fenced off the grotto and issued stiff penalties for trespassers. Eventually, the emperor, Napoleon III, ordered the grotto to be opened in October, 1858. The Church had decided to stay away from the controversy altogether.

On March 25, the Lady told Bernadette, "I am the Immaculate Conception." On July 16, Bernadette went to the grotto for the last time. The Church faced with nation-wide questions, set up an investigative commission. On January 18, 1860, the local bishop finally declared, "*The Virgin Mary did appear indeed to Bernadette Soubirous.*" This established the Marian veneration in Lourdes.

Since 1876, Lourdes has become an international destination for pilgrims to renew their faith and find healing in the waters of the grotto's spring. This feast is a commemoration honoring the mystery of the Immaculate Conception.

SAINT VALENTINE ???



The Church recognizes at least three different saints named Valentine; all were martyrs in the second and third centuries. Valentine of Rome, a priest, was martyred about 269 and was buried on the Via Flaminia in Rome. His relics are in churches in Rome and Dublin. Another Valentine was a bishop in Terni, Italy about 197; his relics are buried at the Basilica of St. Valentine in Terni. A third Valentine is mentioned in the early martyrology under the date of February 14. Along with a number of companions, he was martyred in Africa. The feast of St. Valentine was established by Pope Gelasius in the 5th century. No romantic elements are present in the original early medieval biographies of these martyrs.

However, several legends are attached to the name Valentine. One describes a priest who served during the 3rd century in Rome. When Emperor Claudius outlawed marriage for soldiers saying that single men made better soldiers, Valentine defied the order and performed secret marriages. When Claudius discovered Valentine's actions, he ordered his death.

Another legend has a Valentine in prison. While there, he fell in love with a young girl—who may have been the jailer's daughter—who visited him. Before his death, it is alleged that he wrote a letter which he signed "from your Valentine."

The composite Valentine was one of the most popular saints in England and France during the Middle Ages. In the High Middle Ages, when the tradition of courtly love flourished, Valentine became associated with romantic love in the circle of Geoffrey Chaucer. In Great Britain, Valentine's Day began to be popularly celebrated around the seventeenth century. By the eighteenth century, it was common for friends and lovers in all social classes to exchange small tokens of affection or handwritten notes. By the end of the century, printed cards began to replace written letters.

In the 1969 revision of the Roman Catholic Calendar of Saints, the feast day of St. Valentine on February 14 was removed from the General Roman Calendar and relegated to local calendars because: "Though the memorial of Saint Valentine is ancient, it is left to particular calendars, since, apart from his name, nothing is known of St. Valentine except he was buried on Via Flaminia on February 14."



Financials for December, 2011...

Financial Report



Finance Committee

Larry Davis Steve Lohkamp Tami Bowen
 Jeff Werner Donna Powers

EXPENSES

INCOME

Envelopes	\$ 71,091
Plate Collections	\$ 3,217
Equip/Maint. Contingency Fund	\$ 1,519
Education	\$ 1,340
Church Property Rental	\$ 3,711
Designated Gifts	\$ 16,781
Other income	\$ 1,621
Other Special Collections	\$ 24,696
Total Income	\$ 123,976
Cash Available 11/30/11	\$ 16,275
TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE	\$ 140,251

Salaries & Payroll Taxes	\$ 18,775
Retirement	\$ 631
Medical/Dental Insurance	\$ 4,909
Babysitting	\$ 476
Mileage	\$ 150
Catholic Cemeteries	\$ 83
Office	\$ 4,501
Maintenance & Repairs	\$ 4,406
Janitorial/Maintenance Supplies	\$ 1,747
Altar, Sanctuary, Choir Supplies	\$ 2,962
Telephone	\$ 767
Utilities	\$ 5,871
Household Expenses	\$ 95
Other Miscellaneous Expenses	\$ 40
Financial Assistance to Needy	\$ 7,160
Religious Education	\$ 5,388
Youth Programs	\$ 520
Parish Special Programs	\$ 3,218
Support of Catholic Schools	\$ 43,716
Assessment	\$ 385
Priests' Mutual Benefit Society	\$ 2,311
Special Collections Forwarded	\$ 6,042
Furniture, Fixtures, New Equip.	\$ 1,113
TOTAL BILLS PAID	\$115,266



Moving Forward in Faith and Community

Bank Balance at November 30	\$ 1,435
December Income	\$ 88,406
December Expenses	\$ - 0 -
December Construction Draws	\$ 85,725
December Construction Payments	\$ (85,725)
Transfer to Dio. Savings Acct.	\$ (85,000)
Bank Balance December 31	\$ 4,841

COMMUNITY NEWS...



MISSOURIANS for ALTERNATIVES to the DEATH PENALTY

The Springfield Chapter of the Missourians for Alternatives to the Death Penalty will meet on

Monday, February 6 at 7:00 PM
at Holy Trinity Catholic Church at 2818 E Bennett. All are welcome.

For more information contact Donna Walmsley, (417)459-2960 or visit www.madpmpo.org.

The Springfield Chapter of the Missourians for Alternatives to the Death Penalty is pleased to announce that the recently published book, A Different Kind of Cell, is now available at DeSales Catholic Bookstore.

The book is a local conversion story of a convicted multiple murderer at the Springfield Federal Medical Center. He later became a monk associated with Assumption Monastery in Ava, Missouri prior to his death in 2004. This exploration of forgiveness and conversion would provide insightful spiritual reading during the season of Lent, appropriate for individuals and groups. For additional information contact Donna Walmsley (417)459-2960 or DeSales Catholic Bookstore.

The Springfield Chapter of the Missourians for Alternatives to the Death Penalty and the Justice for Reggie Campaign will sponsor the presentation, "The Troubling Case of Reggie Clemons--The Death Penalty and Wrongful Convictions" on

Thursday, February 23 at 7:00 P.M.
at St. John's Cancer Center at 2055 South Fremont Avenue. This program is free and open to the public. For additional information contact Donna Walmsley, (417)459-2960.

The Knights of Columbus Council 698
presents

GIGGLES



GLAMOUR

Saturday, February 11

THE DIAMOND ROOM
K.C. Hall, 2340 W. Grand

6:30 pm Social with Cash Bar

7:00 pm Surf & Turf 4 Course Dinner
Prepared by Simply Delicious Catering

Gary Conrad, Comedy Hypnosis Show
Music and Dancing

Tickets for this evening of love and laughter
are limited \$75.00 per couple
\$275 reserves a table for eight

For ticket info:

Jim Bach-848-9657 Brad Burnum-838-6485
A benefit for THE KITCHEN, INC>

December's Special Collections

The Kitchen Kettle
\$520

St. Vincent de Paul
\$3,875

Mission Sunday-Prop of Faith
\$15

Seminarians & Retired Religious
\$18,709

Campaign for Human Dev.
\$17

Catholic Charities
\$166

Catholic Schools Pledge Drive
\$5

THANK YOU!
THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church
2200 West Republic Road
Springfield MO 65807

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Religious Ed Assistant	Diane Hoy	dianeh@seaschurch.org
Youth Minister	Melinda Lohkamp	melindal@seaschurch.org
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The Bulletin Board



**Happy Birthday,
Fr. Reidy
Monday, February 20**



**Deadline for articles for the
March newsletter is
Thursday, February 16th.**



**ASH WEDNESDAY MASSES
6:30 and 8:30 AM and 4:30 and 6:30 PM**